



LEEDS LETTER

JANUARY 2013

Upcoming Events 2013

Rezoning Presentation

Tuesday, January 8 @7pm
NHS, Little Theater

Due to the Rezoning meeting scheduled for Jan 8th the LCA will not hold a January meeting as to allow board members the chance to attend the zoning presentation.

February LCA Meeting

Tuesday, February 12 @7:30
Leeds School Teacher's Lounge

Hot Topic - Pizza Party Planning!

We are looking for people to help organize this event, locate prizes, make desserts to share. Come to the meeting! Bring your ideas and join the fun. We need you!

Annual Leeds Pizza Party

Tentative Date: Saturday, March 2
Location to be determined.

Merry Holiday Lighting

Leeds Holiday Lights went up on the foggy night of Dec. 2nd - colorful lights at Mulberry Park and white strands along the Hotel Bridge. Amy Quinn sent down delicious brownies for the crew. By the time the group got over to the Hotel Bridge hands were chilled so the hot chocolate awaiting them was very welcome. Thank you Stephy! If you noticed the lights be sure to thank these Leeds elves: Alice Badecker, Stephy Cho, Jim Montgomery Penny Geis, Justin O'Connor, Heidi Stevens and Tom Quinn!

Proposed Zoning Changes in Bay State Village

The Leeds Civic Association and the Bay State Village Association are co-sponsoring a public forum Tuesday Jan 8, at 7:00 pm in the Little Theater at NHS to review proposed zoning changes. The Planning Board has recommended significant reductions in frontage and lot size requirements which will allow additional housing in most neighborhoods in the city.

Senior planner Carolyn Misch will illustrate these changes using existing lots and buildings in Bay State Village and will answer questions and record comments. It is beneficial for residents of Leeds to see how the proposed changes might affect our neighborhood as well. Everyone is welcome to attend the forum. For more detailed information please visit the city's website: www.northamptonma.gov/opd. Under "HOT TOPICS" click on "Proposed Residential District Changes." Look particularly at "Excerpts from The ZRC" (Zoning Revisions Committee) and the dimensional changes to the URB (Urban Residential B). Almost all of Bay State is zoned URB. For information on the forum contact Alex Ghiselin at: aghiselin@comcast.net.

NEW BIKE TRAIL KIOSK!



Thank you
George Kohout and
David Rondina for your help!

Joel Emrick's History Night

I gave my 2nd talk about Leeds on November 16th. It was a very informal talk and I was pleased to see somewhere in the neighborhood of 35 history buffs. I was also happy to see a lot more "younger" people in the mix. I talked about Leeds from the first saw mill in 1681 to the stores and factories in 1950. I showed over 180 slides - many before and after photos to show what or where the places I was talking about are now. The event ran an hour and a half and was setup so parents could drop their children off for a movie sponsored by the Leeds PTO.

I wished I could have gone into detail about the three old maps I had scanned, but with a long speech, 180+ pictures and an hour and half,

this was impossible. My other regret was that I didn't arrange to have an assistant showing the slides. I would be talking and notice I was about ten pictures behind in what I was talking about.

Thank you to those whose attended the Leeds History Talks, and Heidi and Shawn for their help. Perhaps in the future Leeds Civic Association will sponsor a "Story Night", and invite a few people who could tell what life was about in Leeds in the late 50's and early 60's.

Part 2 - Gazette Series about Leeds,

by Alice Manning, 1975, continued from Oct newsletter

The oldest citizens and those who had studied the history of the area told of its establishment, a fantastic, almost unbelievable tale. It seems that the hard times following the Revolutionary War left the economy in a miserable state and the treasury of the Commonwealth in an almost bankrupt condition. Unable to meet the demands for back pay for those who had served in the armed forces, and hard-pressed for a solution to the dilemma, the commonwealth fell back on the ancient custom of bestowing grants of land in lieu of wages. Many tracts of land in the western part of the state were given over at that time and many of the first settlers

are said to have been the soldiers who were given these home lot grants instead of salary.

The first settler in Leeds is believed to be Calvin Clark who was born in the Justin Smith house on Elm Street in Northampton in 1770. Research has brought forth the fact that Calvin Clark was the fifth son of Deacon Elijah Clark who lived and died (1731 to 1791) in Northampton. Elijah Clark was a prominent man in town and in its military affairs. He served on many committees in connection with the revolutionary War and is listed as a lieutenant at Bennington. It is highly possible, then, that he took acreage in or nearby Leeds to compensate for money owed him.

At the age of 22, the year of his marriage, old records tell us that Calvin came into property owned by his father. Histories also tell us that in 1792 Calvin settled "about six miles west from the center of Northampton. The house was built on the farthest direction toward Williamsburg" on what is now known as Audubon Road. Clark, and his young bride, settled into their new home near the narrow gorge on the banks of the Mill River and set the wheels in motion for the settlement of one of the most attractive little villages in New England.

... To be continued in next newsletter

Time to Renew!

Make checks payable to and return this form to:
Leeds Civic Assoc.
P.O. Box 114
Leeds MA 01053

Thank You!



Become an LCA member for 2013

- 1 If you are renewing membership and your address info is the same, skip the form and send in your check!
- 2 The membership form can also be filled out online at www.leedscivic.org and then send in your check.
- 3 Or, use this printed form and send along your check.

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☐☐

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